

Efficient multiqubit entanglement via a spin-bus

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We propose an experimentally feasible architecture where controllable long-range couplings between spins are built up from local exchange interactions. The scheme consists of a spin-bus, with strong, always-on interactions, coupled dynamically to external spin qubits. The presence of a spectral gap enables the bus to function as a long-range conduit for spin information. The bus also forms a hub for multiqubit entangling operations. We show how multiqubit gates may be used to efficiently generate W -states—an important entanglement resource. In this way, the spin-bus provides an alternate route for scalable solid-state quantum computation, using currently available experimental resources.

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Spin qubits in quantum dots are considered leading candidates for quantum computation because of their long decoherence times and their affinity to scalable gating techniques [1, 2]. A prominent form of interaction between the spins is the exchange coupling—long considered to be crucial for quantum computing in quantum dots [1] and other spin-based qubits [3]. By utilizing coded qubits, the exchange coupling can even accomodate *single* qubit rotations [4, 5]. Recent experiments lends support to the Loss & DiVincenzo proposal by demonstrating electrical control of the exchange coupling in spin qubits [6]. However, the range of the interaction is only tens of nanometers, leading to scaling and architectural constraints [7]. In bulk systems, an effective interaction, known as Ruderman-Kittel-Kasuya-Yosida or RKKY [8], arises due to exchange coupling between localized moments and intermediary particles, such as electrons in a commonly shared electron gas [9] or virtual excitons [10]. The resulting, effective interactions are long-range. It is presently unknown whether a spin chain could play a similar intermediary role for electron spins in quantum dots, thereby enabling a more scalable quantum computing architecture. Here, we show how to engineer such long-range interactions between remote qubits connected to a spin-bus, and we identify appropriate bus gate operations. We also show how critical quantum resources, like an entangled many-body W -state, can be generated efficiently by means of a spin-bus. We conclude that both long-range and many-body couplings between spins can be achieved using established, electrically controlled gating techniques.

Architectures that use an intermediary bus to facilitate long-range interactions between remote qubits have been studied in various qubit schemes, with the Cirac-Zoller proposal for trapped ions as a preeminent example [11]. In semiconductors, there have been bus proposals to transduce spin information into photon modes in resonant cavities [12] or transmission lines [13]. Spin

chains have been proposed as a medium for long-range correlations [14] and dynamical modes [15]. However, the adiabatic spin-bus remains unexplored in the context of quantum computation.

A spin-bus naturally combines long-range interactions with the connectivity needed for computations. Several versions of the bus are shown in Fig. 1. The bus itself is formed of individual electron spins in a chain with strong, static exchange couplings. External spin qubits are coupled dynamically to the internal nodes of the bus by means of electrical gates. We anticipate that a dedicated register may be optimized for the special needs of the bus. However, the main physical requirements are no different from ordinary quantum dots in the Loss & DiVincenzo qubit scheme.

In the present scheme, the spin-bus comprises an odd number of spins N . The bus Hamiltonian is given by $H_b = J_b \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \mathbf{s}_i^b \cdot \mathbf{s}_{i+1}^b$, where the bus spin operators \mathbf{s}_i^b act on the constituent spins. (An $N = 2$ bus is considered in [3].) Here, we assume that the internal bus couplings J_b can be engineered to be uniform, although this is not essential for bus operation. When N is odd, the bus spectrum exhibits a spin-1/2 doublet ground state, separated from the excited states by the spectral gap [16, 17, 18]

$$\Delta_b \simeq J_b \pi^2 / 2N. \quad (1)$$

This ground state manifold, spanned by $\{|0\rangle_b, |1\rangle_b\}$, forms the working space of the bus, as illustrated in Figs. 2(a) and 2(b). If the “adiabatic temperature” $T_{\text{gate}} \sim 1/\tau_{\text{gate}}$ (determined by the gate time τ_{gate}) and the physical temperature are both smaller than the minimum gap, $\Delta_{\text{min}} \simeq \Delta_b$, then the bus will remain in its working manifold, once initialized. The coupling between the i th qubit and the i th bus spin is given by $H_i = J_i(t) \mathbf{s}_i^q \cdot \mathbf{s}_i^b$. By restricting the bus to its ground state manifold, we obtain an effective qubit-bus Hamil-

tonian:

$$H_i^* = J_i^*(t) \mathbf{s}_i^q \cdot \mathbf{S}, \quad (2)$$

$$J_i^* = 2 J_{ib} \langle 0 | s_{iz}^b | 0 \rangle_b, \quad (3)$$

where the spin operator \mathbf{S} acts on the spin-1/2 bus manifold. Numerically, we find that $J_i^* \simeq \pm J_{ib}/\sqrt{N}$, where the $+$ ($-$) sign holds for odd (even) bus nodes. Thus, the qubit-bus coupling strength J_i and the size of the bus determine its operating speed. We note that the effective couplings J_i^* alternate between ferromagnetic and antiferromagnetic, reminiscent of the RKKY interaction, while the effective coupling strength decays as a power-law, also similar to RKKY. Below, we shall assume uniform qubit-bus couplings ($J_i = J_q$, for all i) and consider only the antiferromagnetically coupled nodes.

The simplest operating mode of the bus is the serial mode, in which the bus acts as a qubit proxy. The Heisenberg interaction H_i^* generates a SWAP gate between the qubit and the bus [1], after a gate time $\tau_{\text{SWAP}} \simeq \pi\sqrt{N}/J_q$. The serial gate protocol proceeds as follows: (i) SWAP qubit onto bus, (ii) perform root-SWAP gate between bus and target qubits, (iii) SWAP bus back onto original qubit. The ideal final state corresponds to a root-SWAP between the qubits, leaving the bus in its initial state. Note that the initial state of the bus is irrelevant for serial operations. However, it must be initialized into its working manifold. This can be accomplished quickly by thermalization, when the gap Δ_b is much larger than the temperature.

The scaling properties of the serial operating mode are determined by the bare coupling constants J_b and J_q , and the bus size N . Using the relations given above, the adiabaticity criterion, $2\pi < \tau_{\text{SWAP}}\Delta_b$, can be rewritten as $J_b/J_q > 4\sqrt{N}/\pi^2$. Scaling up to large N therefore depends on arranging for a large ratio between the coupling constants. Because of the exponential dependence of the exchange coupling on the quantum dot separation and the barrier height, one can easily imagine a coupling constant ratio of order $J_b/J_q > 100$, suggesting a bound of $N < 60,000$ on the bus size. However, this depends entirely on the physical constraints associated with fabricating quantum dots.

To compare the scaling properties of the serial bus gate *vs.* a conventional linear qubit array, we consider a SWAP protocol between two qubits on opposite ends of an N -qubit chain. For the conventional array, this involves a series of $(2N - 3)$ SWAP gates. Since some gates of duration π/J_q may be performed in parallel, the total gate time is roughly $N\pi/J_q$. The corresponding spin-bus protocol involves just three SWAPs, with a total gate time of $3\pi\sqrt{2N - 1}/J_q$, where we have assumed a $(2N - 1)$ -qubit array, with N antiferromagnetically-coupled qubits and $(N - 1)$ unused ferromagnetically-coupled qubits. Thus, for a serial SWAP gate, the bus provides a quadratic speedup. A modest amount of parallel (qubit-qubit) con-

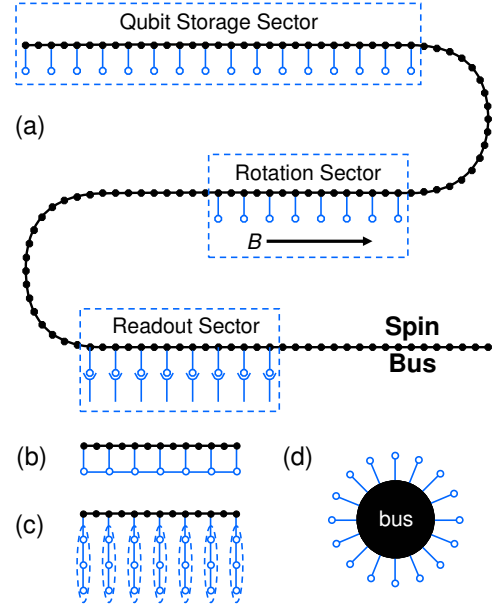


FIG. 1: (Color online) Spin-bus architectures. (a) The spin-bus is a chain of electronic spins (closed circles) with strong, static couplings (heavy lines). External qubits (open circles) can be coupled dynamically to the bus at each node (light lines). Effective long-range interactions allow for communication between sectors dedicated to rotation, read-out or memory, which may benefit from isolation. (b) Direct couplings between the qubits enable conventional, local interactions, in addition to bus-mediated interactions. (c) Coded qubits or larger clusters can replace the external qubits. (d) By operating adiabatically in its ground state, the bus acts as an extended spin-1/2 qubit, with controllable Heisenberg couplings to each data qubit.

nectivity also opens the door for fast local gates, and parallel gate operations [Fig. 1(b)].

We can compare the propagation of errors in SWAP protocols by introducing small random errors of magnitude δ into the couplings: $J_q \rightarrow \tilde{J}_q = J_q(1 \pm \delta)$. If $U_{\text{SWAP}}(J_q)$ represents a perfect multiqubit SWAP gate, then the operator norm $\epsilon = \|U_{\text{SWAP}}(\tilde{J}_q) - U_{\text{SWAP}}(J_q)\|$ describes the compounded error. We have performed numerical simulations of \tilde{J}_q errors in a conventional linear qubit array. By averaging over random error realizations, we observe that the resulting errors add up as a type of random walk, with $\epsilon \propto \delta(2N - 3)^{0.68}$. An equivalent analysis for the spin-bus shows that ϵ does not depend on N , leading to a scaling improvement of particular significance for quantum error correction [7].

In the serial mode, the spin-bus functions as a simple conduit for quantum information, leading to a new scaling law for long-range gating. However, the full potential of the spin-bus is achieved through simultaneous, multiqubit couplings, which enable quantum-parallel processing. As an example, we now show how to efficiently generate a W -state of n qubits [19], defined by

$|W_n\rangle = (|00\dots 001\rangle + |00\dots 010\rangle + |00\dots 100\rangle + \dots + |10\dots 000\rangle)/\sqrt{n}$. Such highly entangled states form a critical resource for quantum information and computation because of their maximal persistence and robustness to particle loss [20], and their relative immunity to dephasing [21].

We first show how to construct multiqubit bus gates. Simultaneous multiqubit couplings with the bus are described by the Hamiltonian $H_n = J_q^* \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{s}_i^q \cdot \mathbf{S}$. Here, the bus behaves as an ordinary qubit when it is restricted to its working manifold, except for its plurality of couplings [Fig. 1(d)]. The effective coupling constants J_q^* are assumed to be identical for all the qubits, although lifting this restriction may provide a richer set of multiqubit gates.

The unitary evolution operator for the qubit-bus system is given by $U(t) = e^{-iH_n t}$. Although $U(t)$ possesses off-diagonal terms that entangle the qubits with the bus, these terms should vanish for a true bus gate. We therefore seek special evolution periods $t = \tau$ for which bus decoupling occurs. The task of computing $U(t)$ is simplified in the angular momentum basis $\{|0\rangle, |1\rangle\} \otimes \{|j, \lambda, m\rangle\}$, where the states on the left describe the bus manifold, and the qubit states on the right are classified by their angular momentum quantum numbers, j and m , and the degeneracy label λ [5]. (For example, in the case of four qubits, there are two orthogonal $j = m = 0$ singlet states; whence $\lambda = 0, 1$.) In the angular momentum basis, $U(t)$ is block diagonal with blocks of size 1×1 and 2×2 . The latter correspond to pairs of states given by $\{|0\rangle|j, \lambda, m+1\rangle, |1\rangle|j, \lambda, m\rangle\}$. We find that there exists a time τ for which all the 2×2 blocks are simultaneously diagonal, giving $\tau = 4\pi/J_q^*$ when n is even, and $\tau = 2\pi/J_q^*$ when n is odd. (The case $n = 2$ is anomalous, with $\tau = 4\pi/3J_q^*$.) The resulting diagonal bus gates are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \langle 0; j, \lambda, m | U(\tau) | 0; j, \lambda, m \rangle &= \\ \langle 1; j, \lambda, m | U(\tau) | 1; j, \lambda, m \rangle &= e^{-ijJ_q^* \tau/2}. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

When n is even, we find that $U(\tau) = \mathbf{1}$ (except when $n = 2$). However, the case of odd n provides non-trivial bus gates. Since the multiplicity of each diagonal element in $U(\tau)$ is even, we may reorder the basis such that $U(\tau) = \text{diag}(U_n, U_n) = \mathbf{1}_b \otimes U_n$. This is a remarkable result: the action of the $U(\tau)$ gate is to return the bus to its original state, while implementing a non-trivial transformation U_n on the qubits. On the other hand, imperfect gate timing may produce unwanted entanglements between the qubits and the bus. For small timing errors of the form $J_q^* \tilde{\tau} = 2\pi(1 + \delta)$, we find that the operator error norm $\epsilon = \|U(\tilde{\tau}) - U(\tau)\| = (\pi/2)(n+2)\delta$. For the state fidelity, we obtain $1 - f = 1 - \text{Tr} \{ [U(\tau)|\Psi\rangle\langle\Psi|U^\dagger(\tau)] [U(\tilde{\tau})|\Psi\rangle\langle\Psi|U^\dagger(\tilde{\tau})] \} < (\pi^2/2)(n+1)^2\delta^2$.

The temporal scaling properties of the bus gate derive from the fact that τ is independent of n . Thus, in terms of

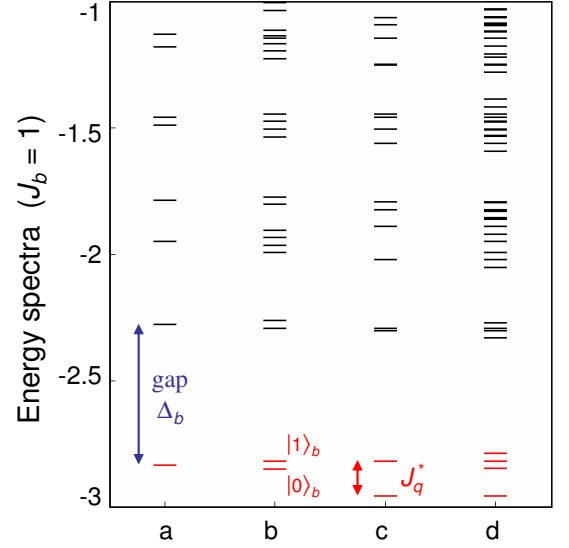


FIG. 2: (Color online) Energy spectra for an $N = 7$ bus. Ground states in the bus manifold lie below the gap (red lines). Excited states lie above the gap (black lines). (a) With no coupled qubits and $B = 0$, the bus manifold is doubly degenerate. (b) With no coupled qubits and $B = 0.03$, the doublet splits, defining the working states of the bus. (c) With one coupled qubit and $B = 0$, the bus and qubit states hybridize to form a singlet and a triplet, split by J_q^* . (d) With one coupled qubit and $B = 0.03$, the triplet state splits. (Here, we assume $J_b = 1$ and $J_q = 0.3$, with the dimensionless Zeeman coupling $H_B = \sum_i B s_{iz}$, summed over all spins.)

time resources, multiqubit bus gates cost the same as few-qubit bus gates. In contrast, many time steps are needed when building conventional, multiqubit operations out of local gates, especially when quantum error correction is taken into account. The spatial scaling properties of the bus gates is determined by diagonalizing the Hamiltonian H_n . The resulting spectrum has width $\delta E = (1+n)J_q^*/2$, which grows linearly with the number of coupled qubits. For adiabatic operation, this spectrum should lie entirely below the gap: $\delta E < \Delta_b$. We consider U_n acting on n antiferromagnetically-coupled qubits, corresponding to a minimum bus size of $(2n-1)$. The resulting bound on the gate size is $n < (\pi^2 J_b/J_q \sqrt{2})^{2/3} \simeq 79$, where we have used our previous, conservative estimate of $J_b/J_q \simeq 100$.

We now develop protocols for generating an entangled W_n state, using the multiqubit gates U_n . The procedures are probabilistic, requiring the measurement of certain “sacrificial” (s) qubits. Following a successful measurement outcome, the remaining register of “data” (d) qubits is found in the desired W_n state. A whole family of protocols can be derived, involving a variable number of sacrificial qubits.

Two optimal protocols stand out. In the first case, just one sacrificial qubit is used. Consider the specific case of two data qubits. We find that the bus gate U_3 , operating on the initial state $|00\rangle_d |1\rangle_s$, gives $(\sqrt{8}/3)|W_2\rangle_d |0\rangle_s -$

$(1/3)|00\rangle_d|1\rangle_s$. If measurement of the sacrificial qubit gives $|0\rangle_s$, then the data register will be found in the state $|W_2\rangle_d$. The protocol can be extended to any size system, obtaining the desired outcome $|W_n\rangle$ with probability $p = 4n/(n+1)^2$. (See [23] for a related protocol for quantum oscillators.)

In the second case, we utilize $(n-1)$ sacrificial qubits for an n -qubit data register. The probability of success is much higher in this case, but at the cost of some qubits. The protocol can be expressed in the computational basis as follows:

$$U_{2n-1}|1\rangle_d^{\otimes n}|0\rangle_s^{\otimes(n-1)} \xrightarrow{M_s} |W_n\rangle_d|1\rangle_s^{\otimes(n-1)}, \quad (5)$$

$$\{p = n[(2n-2)!!/(2n-1)!!]^2\},$$

where M_s signifies the measurement of the sacrificial qubits, and p is the probability of success. In words, the qubits are initialized to a simple product state of 1's in the data register and 0's in the sacrificial register. An entangling U_{2n-1} gate is performed on the combined register, followed by a parallel measurement of all the qubits in the sacrificial register. With high probability p , the sacrificial register will be found in the state with all 1's, with the data register in the desired state $|W_n\rangle_d$. To compute p , we express the initial state in the angular momentum basis. After applying U_{2n-1} , we return to the computational basis using Clebsch-Gordon techniques. We see that $p > \pi/4 \simeq 0.79$ for all n , so on average, only 1-2 iterations are needed for a successful outcome. In comparison, a deterministic protocol for generating $|W_n\rangle$ via local interactions involves a series of n exchange gates, and an attendant overhead for quantum error correction.

Finally, we consider the decoherence properties of a spin-bus. Because the internal couplings of the bus are always on, and because a large bus is spatially extended, the dominant decoherence properties differ from single-spin qubits. For example, fluctuations in the inter-bus coupling constant J_b do not cause dephasing of the bus state, in contrast with single-spin qubits [24]. Instead they lead to relatively weak fluctuations of the gap, Δ_b . The main dephasing mechanisms for the spin-bus are fluctuations of the qubit-bus couplings J_q , and the locally and temporally varying magnetic fields at the bus nodes, arising from nuclear spins [16, 25]. In general, we expect better decoherence properties from a spin-bus than an equivalent array of single-spin qubits. For the bus, decoherence rates will scale as \sqrt{N} or N when the nuclear dynamics result in $1/f$ or gaussian noise, respectively. However, the true physical dynamics is not known at present.

We have shown that the exchange coupling possesses a significant untapped potential for quantum dot quantum computing in the form of long-range interactions via a spin-bus. The main scaling properties depend on the ratio between the raw qubit and bus coupling constants, J_q/J_b , and may allow for bus sizes greater than 10^3 . But

while long-range couplings between spin qubits are advantageous, the true power of the spin-bus originates from quantum many-body physics. To utilize this potential, we have shown how to generate entangling gates, U_n , and multiqubit W_n states. For both serial and multiqubit operations, the spin-bus provides a new scaling power law for spin-based quantum computing.

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